

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-32

WASHINGTON POST
29 March 1984

State Department to Request Special Anti-Terrorist Funds

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The State Department, concerned by the continuing threat of international terrorism, said it will ask Congress for special funds to improve the security of U.S. diplomatic facilities in the Persian Gulf region and also expects to appoint an expert advisory board to recommend a 10-year program of anti-terrorist measures.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz alluded briefly to both programs in testimony yesterday and Tuesday before congressional subcommittees dealing with department appropriations.

Department officials, elaborating on his remarks, said the administration wants to supplement its fiscal-year 1985 budget request with additional funds to make U.S. embassy and consular buildings in the turbulent Gulf region more resistant to attack.

They said the amount required is still under study, but added that

soundings in Congress have revealed strong bipartisan support for the idea.

The officials said almost all U.S. diplomatic facilities are badly in need of security upgrading that will make them less inviting targets for attacks such as the 1979 burning of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and the bombing of the embassy in Kuwait last December.

The officials said the more long-range idea, originated by Ronald I. Spiers, undersecretary for management, envisions enlisting a cross section of security and intelligence experts to assess the likely directions of worldwide terrorist activity over the next 10 years.

They said the experts would be expected to recommend possible countering methods such as reducing the number of American diplomatic posts abroad or relocating them in more protected areas. They said the department is still canvassing potential candidates for the advisory panel.